



JAN 16 2004

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0091.Y1

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:
Hebert et al.**

Serial No.: 09/692,592

Confirmation No.: 8289

Filed: October 19, 2000

For: Completion Apparatus and
Methods for Use in
Hydrocarbon Wells

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Neuder, W.

Customer No.: 36,735

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GROUP 3600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8	
<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on <u>12 Jan 04</u> with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p>	
<u>12 Jan 04</u> Date	<u>Caren Bitter</u> Signature

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 10, 2003

In response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 10, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0091/WBP fees for any additional claims. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0091/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

drillable cement shoe portion disposed in the tubular section, the cement shoe portion in selective fluid communication with the tubular string, as recited in new claims 44-49. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of new claims 44-49.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 4, and 5 as new claims 39-41; therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 39-41.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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